



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Joint Information Center (JIC)

July 28, 2012, 09:00 a.m. CDT

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(NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Nebraska JIC Daily Update

Highlights

Yesterday the fire remained active on the Wentworth with medium to high rates of spread, group tree torching, crown runs and medium range spotting. Crews completed line around Fairfield Creek bringing it into 100 percent containment. Good progress was made on both Wentworth and Hall's containment lines.

Weather

Today's weather is forecasted to be hot and dry with temperatures in the mid 90s to low 100s with relative humidity around 25 percent. Last night's thunderstorm provided little moisture and several positive lightning strikes. There is a lot of potential for new starts, active burning and re-burning throughout the areas.

Strategies

- Fairfield - crews will continue to patrol and mop-up.
- Hall - crews will hold and improve lines.
- Wentworth – crews will continue securing open line with line construction and firing out operations. They will also continue to hold and improve line, mop-up and patrol.
- Structure protection will continue on all three fires.

Road Closures

No road closures are in place however local authorities recommend using Highway 183 as an alternative to Highway 7 as it will have heavy emergency vehicle traffic.

Evacuations No evacuations are in place at this time.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: July 20, 2012

Containment: 73 percent , estimate July 30

Cause: Lightning

Acreage: 74,884 total (Fairfield 66,745; Wentworth, 5,757; Hall, 2,382)

Personnel: 423, plus approximately 40 Rural Fire Department personnel

Crews: 8 crews on the fire line

Cooperating Agencies: Brown, Keya Paha and Cherry County Sheriff Offices; State of Nebraska; Ainsworth, Springview, Valentine, and Wood Lake VFDs*; Region 24 Emergency Management; Nebraska National Guard;

Nebraska State Fire Marshall; Nebraska Emergency Management Agency; Nebraska State Patrol; Nebraska Forest Service; Nebraska Department of Roads; National Park Service; The Nature Conservancy; and American Red Cross

Aviation: Five heavy-lift helicopters, one medium, and one light

Engines: 27, plus 20 Rural Fire Department engines

Injuries: 3 (minor)

Structures destroyed: 14 residence 17 associated outbuildings

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 152

*100 Volunteer Fire Departments responded as part of the mutual aid.

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For up to date fire information and latest fire map visit: <http://inciweb.org/>

